



## IFS2020 Joint Committee Meeting

09.00am, 14 December 2015  
The Vaults, Dogpatch Labs, CHQ Building, Dublin 1

### Minutes

**Members of the Public Sector High Level Implementation Committee (HLIC) in attendance:** Minister of State Simon Harris (Chair); Ann Nolan (D/Fin); Niall Burgess (D/FAT); Martin Fraser (D/Taoiseach), John Murphy (DJEI); Martin Shanahan (IDA); Leo McAdams (Enterprise Ireland, for Julie Sinnamon); David Moloney (D/PER, for Robert Watt).

**Members of the IFS Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) in attendance:** Carin Bryans (J.P. Morgan); David Dalton (Deloitte); Brian Daly (KPMG); Susan Dargan (State Street); Liam Foley (Interaction); Geraldine Gibson (AQ Metrics); John Higgins (Avolon); Peter Keegan (BAML); Colm Lyon (Fire Financial Services); Michael Mainelli (International Member); Patrick Manley (Zurich); Barry O'Dwyer (Blackrock).

**Apologies:** Robert Watt (D/PER); Julie Sinnamon (Enterprise Ireland).

**HLIC Secretariat:** Mary Clare O'Sullivan (D/Taoiseach)

**IAC Secretariat:** Marc Coleman (FSI)

**Officials in attendance:** Gareth Murphy, James O'Sullivan (Central Bank); Jonathan Conlon (D/FAT); Neil Ryan (D/Finance); Maria Ginnity, Cróna Brassill (D/JEI); Cathal O'Regan, David Crowe, John Golden (D/Taoiseach); Brendan McCormack (Enterprise Ireland); Kieran Donoghue, Justin Sullivan (IDA); Richard Troy (Private Secretary to Minister Harris).

### Opening

Minister Harris thanked Patrick Walsh and the team at Dogpatch Labs for hosting the meeting. Minister Harris welcomed Mr. Liam Foley to his first meeting, noting that Mr. Foley replaces Ms. Ruth Fletcher on the Industry Advisory Committee, and thanking Ms. Fletcher for her contribution.

### Item 1. Q4/End of Year Progress Report and updates on key deliverables

A draft of the Q4/End of Year Progress Report was circulated prior to the meeting. Minister Harris requested that any final inputs to be provided to the Secretariat by Monday 21 December at the latest, with a view to bringing to Government in January and publication thereafter.

#### 1.a Employment Data

Minister Harris invited IDA and EI to update on job creation from a multinational and industry perspective. Provisional figures for 2015 indicate that job target is on track but it was noted that final data would not be available until the data verification process is complete and the Annual Employment Survey is published during Q1 2016. M. Shanahan and L. McAdams commented on the data from the perspective of IDA and Enterprise Ireland respectively. IDA reported 13



investments by their IFS portfolio clients in 2015, 12 of which were new investments. Enterprise Ireland reported three major jobs announcements in 2015 by IFS client companies, as well as strong incremental growth across their portfolio of client companies. Both agencies indicated that the outlook for further growth in 2016 is very positive. It was noted that growth is largely outside Dublin, reflecting both agencies focus on balanced development. Sectors showing strong growth include Funds, FinTech, Leasing and Payments. A more specific breakdown of figures will be available once the data verification process is finalised.

## **1.b European Financial Forum**

Minister Harris noted that good progress had been made in organising the European Financial Forum (EFF) in a challenging time-frame, and that the event had the potential to become a significant fixture on the annual calendar for IFS companies. M. Shanahan provided an update on preparations, confirming that interest in the EFF has been strong, that a number of high-profile speakers have been confirmed, and that a significant proportion of the registered delegates are from overseas. Mr Shanahan invited further input and support from members of the Joint Committee.

## **1.c Banner Brand**

M. Shanahan provided an update on progress with the Banner Brand. There has been extensive consultation with industry stakeholders including a number of workshops and bilateral meetings, with a further presentation to industry stakeholders scheduled for 17 December. All industry representative bodies have been invited to input. Mr Shanahan extended a further invite to all Joint Committee members to the 17 December meeting, or alternatively to arrange a bilateral discussion if desired. Mr. Shanahan indicated that a budget will be available to implement the Banner Brand. Minister Harris noted that there will be an expectation and onus on industry stakeholders to use the Banner Brand once it is launched. Consideration will be given to a soft launch of the Banner Brand at the Asian Financial Forum in Hong Kong in mid-January, in advance of the anticipated formal launch at the European Financial Forum in Dublin Castle on 27<sup>th</sup> January.

## **Item 2. Proposals for 2016 actions**

The Joint Committee considered a draft list of proposed 2016 actions which had been circulated in advance. Minister Harris explained that the number of headline actions had been reduced to ten, under which a series of detailed measures are included. Any final observations on the proposed 2016 actions need to be provided to the Secretariat by Monday 21 December at the latest, with a view to publication in January.

Members of the Joint Committee broadly welcomed the format and content of the draft document. Points discussed included the need for clear identification of a lead agency/department for each measure, introducing a traffic lights system to monitor progress, ensuring that all measures have a specific deadline, and some reflection of relative impacts and efforts involved in each measure. It was agreed to provide the IAC members with a copy of the revised actions once finalised.

It was agreed that any additional inputs to the 2016 action plan would be provided by Monday 21 December.



## **Item 3. Industry items**

Minister Harris highlighted the progress made on items raised at previous meetings.

### **3.a Private Equity Legislation**

A. Nolan confirmed that Minister Noonan is positively disposed towards progressing legislative changes. D/FIN is awaiting feedback from industry on the 1907 Act, at which point it will be in a position to scope the full extent of a new Bill.

### **3.b Opportunities in China**

The Joint Committee discussed progress in relation to IFS opportunities in China. Progress is being made by D/FIN and D/FAT in advancing proposals to Government.

### **3.c Working Groups**

On request from industry at the last meeting, an update note on various Working Groups was circulated in advance of the meeting.

## **Item 4. AOB**

### **4.a Budget 2016**

A. Nolan provided an overview of some key enterprise related provisions in Budget 2016 including the earned income tax credit, the extension of corporation tax relief for new start-ups, the introduction of the knowledge development box, and capital allowances in the aviation sector. Industry stakeholders welcomed the measures although some members expressed disappointment that Budget measures to support and incentivise entrepreneurship had not gone further referencing a number of specific proposals in this regard which had been made in pre-Budget Submissions. D/FIN noted that measures introduced for entrepreneurs will cost €7 million in a full year or over 10% of the full tax package in Budget 2016. Entrepreneurs will also benefit from the general income tax changes that apply to all income earners. Further fiscal space was not available this year to provide additional measures solely targeted at this sector given the range of policy objectives and priorities which had to be considered in framing the Budget.

It was also noted that these measures could be built on in future Budgets and that the Department of Finance would continue to engage with stakeholders through consultation conducted as part of the annual budgetary process. It was emphasised that the earlier submissions were received the better in terms of their potential to be reflected in the budgetary cycle.

Minister Harris also remarked that tax issues should generally be addressed through the normal budgetary process and suggested that the new FinTech and Payments working group could provide a useful co-ordinating channel in this regard.

### **4.b Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015**

The Secretariat has recently engaged extensively with both SIPO and D/PER. The Secretariat is available to discuss the implications of the Act with the chairpersons of the Working Groups.

### **4.c Calendar of promotional opportunities**



A calendar of promotional opportunities was circulated prior to the meeting. Joint Committee members should advise the Secretariat of any additional events to be included.

### **Dates of next meetings**

The proposed schedule of future Joint Committee meetings was noted as follows:

Monday 7 March 2016, 9 am

Monday 20 June 2016, 9 am

Monday 19 September 2016, 9 am

Minister Harris concluded by thanking participants for their attendance and contribution.